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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,669	04/21/2006	Adelmo Giovannini	GIOVANNINI 3 PCT	5714

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MAI T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3671

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/29/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/576,669	Applicant(s) GIOVANNINI, ADELMO	
	Examiner Mai T. Nguyen	Art Unit 3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/21/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because in figure 2, reference character "23" has been used to designate both the rake wheels on arm 21 and the second pair of second arms; "24" has been used to designate both the rake wheels on arm 22 and the first pair of second arms; and "33" has been used to designate the actuation device and the area below E1. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "arms 24, 24'" should be —arms 24'— on page 4, lines 22, 23, 25 and "E6" should be —E3—on page 4, line 22.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: reference character 23' in figure 2 is not described in the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The reference characters are relied upon to describe the claimed invention, which would be unclear without them; for example, drawbar 20, how is it shaped and where is it connected? While the use of reference characters within the drawings and specification is permitted in the claims, the reference characters cannot be used to imply the structure or set forth the elements in place of a detailed description of the claimed subject matter. Applicant should amend the claims to sufficiently describe the invention and the elements thereof so the claimed invention can be understood clearly without reference characters. Applicant should also ensure that the reference characters used are drawn to the correct elements.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peeters (US 5,598,691) in view of Allen (US 4,932,197).

Regarding claim 1, Peeters discloses a V-shaped rake in figures 1, 3, 6 and 8 comprising a vertical frame formed by vertical uprights 100, 102 connected by cross-member 96 which is connected by joints 108, 110 to first arms 24, 26 carrying rakes 152, 172, the cross-member being connected to drawbar 22, which is connected by second arms 28, 30 to the first arms, the second arms being slidable along the drawbar so as to move the first arms from a resting position parallel to the drawbar and to a working position divaricated with respect to the drawbar; the vertical uprights provided with a means of linear translation 344; and the drawbar carries means 88 for controlling movement of the first arms.

Peeters fails to disclose the rakes forming a Y-shape when in the working position. Allen teaches a similar rake 10 for raking hay that forms a Y-shape, as seen in figure 5. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the rake of Peeters with a Y-shape as taught by Allen because it is well known in the hay rake art to have one rake arm extend further than another rake arm to ensure the area between the two arms is raked when the hay rake

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is extending in its working position thereby allowing for a wider span of raking for efficient hay raking.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, the combination of Peeters and Allen discloses the rake wheels are capable of being arranged in front of each other so as to be superposed partially, see Allen figure 5.

Regarding claim 4, Peeters discloses the means 88 are formed by a hydraulic-control assembly, see column 5, line 44.

Regarding claim 5, Peeters discloses the means 344 are formed by a mechanical control assembly, see column 9, paragraph 2.

Regarding claim 6, Peeters discloses the means 88 for controlling the movement of the first arms 24, 26 are formed by a hydraulic control assembly, see column 5, line 44.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mai T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7662. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00a-5:00p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on (571) 272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600